



Network News

First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, NC • April 2018

Getting to Know You as You Get to Know Us as We Get to Know Our Calling in Christ

Greetings from your new pastor Ed and wife Suk Hwa. By now you have heard a lot about us and our backgrounds. You hopefully learned a little about my wife and her infectious Korean curiosity. Maybe you heard about my daughter Hanna's love of insects and science and her wonderful fiancée Dan, who is a work at home computer programming whiz for the time being. You will know as well my time spent in the military and my love of Sailors and Marines and even Soldiers and members of the Air Force and Coast Guard. You could have been told about my son Tyler who loved wrestling and track in high school and still loves to work out at an MMA gym (even though I fear he has a glass jaw), and now we are proud to say the Air Force will be assigning him to a permanent duty station soon as a cyber security specialist. And there is also my little 80-plus pound puppy Khan (As in the Wrath of Khan for you Star Trek fans or Genghis for you world history buffs). He really is a lovable standard poodle mix. Boo is our cat who my daughter chose in High School, but due to her constant travels he has become our Russian Blue alarm clock at 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. feeding time.

That's our story in a nutshell, save one all important item. Our love of the people God has given us to share his love with through the years and that now brings me to the main point. Suk Hwa and I are going to be missing our family in Cincinnati deeply, but we are also eager to get to know all of you as we prepare for our Carolina journey of faith. To begin I want to share with y'all (I am looking forward to that phrase spoken more often around me once again), a little bit about what I consider to be our greatest shared purpose and what will hopefully lead First Pres. Jacksonville toward an exciting future in spiritual and missional growth, learning to share our faith stories together by "Being Living Witnesses." This will not only be my theme for Pentecost, it is also an expectant hope Christ has for us all. This expectant hope is highlighted throughout scriptures and really has helped me to focus on what I consider essential for any Body of Christ to mature and grow.

Jesus began his ministry with the promise to make his followers "fishers of the (people)" *Mark 1:17*. We need to recognize opportunities to cast out an invitational and welcoming net farther and broader than we at first imagined. This is not to grow our church in numbers (while that certainly would not be a bad thing); this is our identity as those blessed enough to be Christ's family. In Easter we are all familiar with the resurrection commencement declaration of Jesus, "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" *Matthew 28:19*. This is not a mere hope that someone would put their name on an outreach sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. This is what the church (The Whole Body of Christ, ordained and lay) does in order to show in Christ there is no separation of the peoples and his grace is meant not to share with the few we get along with, but with all. This is the rich infilling of the expectation of God that we not only appear to be God's people but internally we belong to God, who has told us "what is good...to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with (our) God" *Micah 6:8*.

Here within lies the difference between a church going through the motions and a church constantly be transformed by the Holy Spirit. Pure unselfish love with no need for style points or finesse, but to realize "Yes Jesus loves me" is the theme we want all those we meet to embrace at the level they can according to the trust, understanding, and commitment that we freely offer, because it was at one time freely offered to us.

Yes it is a bold expectation. But, it is not mine alone for you; it is what I hope you see coming out of me as we get to know our calling in Christ together.



Spread
the Word

Blessings,
Ed

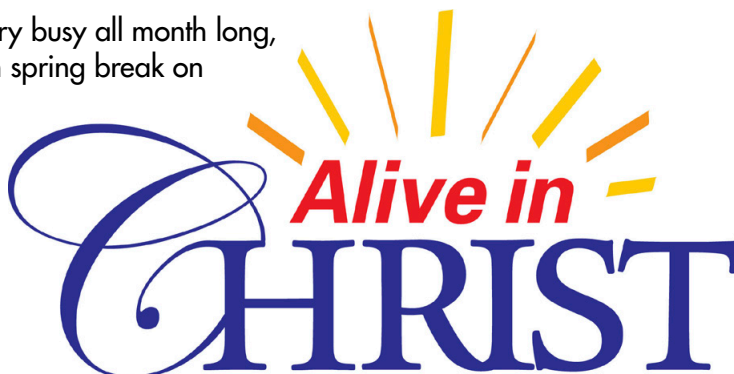
Hello, everyone!

We hope that everyone had a Happy Easter! We, at the preschool, hosted our annual family Easter program and brunch, to celebrate Easter. Everyone enjoyed food and fellowship. The preschool students spent the week before Spring Break learning about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. We are so very thankful to Mrs. Opal Amos for graciously teaching our precious little ones about the very important lessons of Easter. We are so happy to share God's love with our students and their families.

During the month of March, the students studied Dr. Seuss, weather events and patterns, the spring season, and Easter. We took field trips to the Onslow County public library and Barnes and Noble as parts of our study of Dr. Seuss. Both trips were enjoyed by all!

The students and staff have been very busy all month long, and look forward to our return from spring break on Monday, April 9.

With gratitude,
Jessica Arnold
Preschool Director



- 3 Martha Danford
- 7 Shirley Phillips
- 15 Tim Hunter
- Jackie Southerland
- 9 Jayla Thorton
- 25 Ann Sholar

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Liturgist	Usher Leader	Treasurer's Assistant
1*	Jessica Skinner	Bobby Sheegog	Bobby Sheegog
8	Gary Danford	Barbara Krause	Tim Hunter
15	Sue Lowery	Harry Woodard	Harry Woodard
22	Opal Amos	Trent Bledsoe	Opal Amos
29	Jessica Skinner	Tim Hunter	Tim Hunter

***Communion** **Head Ushers:** Please make sure you and/or your team are available to assist worshippers who may need help entering the building.

Sanctuary Flowers
If you would like to provide flowers for the Worship Service, please sign up on the sheet across from the Pastor's office, or call the Church office

Network News of the First Presbyterian Church Jacksonville

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Coastal Carolina Presbytery www.presbycc.org • Presbyterian Church (USA) www.pcusa.org

A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church for the purpose of informing members and friends of the meetings and programs of the church, to provide newsworthy articles, and to strengthen communications in our church family. Please send news and articles to the newsletter editor.

May 2018 Newsletter Submission DeadlineFriday, April 20

- Ministers..... The People of the Church
- Pastor The Reverend Ed Kahl
- Church Secretary Gloria Parker
- Music Director/Organist Sheila Miller
- Pre-School Director Jessica Arnold
- Newsletter Editor Donna Keugel, dotdot1207@gmail.com

Rotation Sunday School is FUN!

Our children and youth have been experiencing the Workshop Rotation Model since the fall of 2016. One Bible story is taught over several Sundays, and the children experience a different workshop each week to experience the story from different perspectives. The workshops might be a cooking lesson, a Bible skills lesson, a games lesson, or a music lesson; each approaching the Bible story in a different way. One rotation may last 4 to 6 weeks, with about seven different rotations being taught over the school year.

Suzanne Bledsoe organizes the curriculum and adult volunteers lead one of the four workshop lessons each month. The focus for the past four weeks has been Palm Sunday. The students experienced the triumphal entry into Jerusalem through Bible Skills & Games, Storytelling and Stone Art, Video, and Cooking.

The next four-week rotation is on Paul and the Bright Light, based on Acts 9:1-22. In the "How Sweet the Sound" Music workshop, students will create and sing new lyrics to the tune of Amazing Grace, turning it into "Paul's Hymn about Amazing Grace" that day on the Road to Damascus.

In the weeks ahead, please keep this ministry that nurtures our children's faith in your prayers and look for opportunities for ways in which YOU can be involved! This is a wonderful way to get to know the children of the church, to "love our kids into the Kingdom," and to fulfill the promises we made at their baptisms! Don't miss out!

Here are some photos from the Palm Sunday rotation...



April 22
2 Cents a Meal





400 Bayshore Boulevard North
Jacksonville, NC 28540



Summer Camp Opportunities for Children/Youth

For more than 50 years, Camp Kirkwood has welcomed campers, providing a chance to escape the distraction of modern life and experience God's breath-taking natural world through exploration and adventure. Camp Kirkwood is located just outside of Watha, North Carolina and is managed by The Friends of Camp Kirkwood and the Wilmington Family YMCA. At Camp Kirkwood, they are able to create a one-of-a-kind opportunity for kids to build character, develop self-confidence, and encourage self-expression. Day Camps and Overnight Camps are offered.

Camp Directors:

Luke Dooley, Associate Executive Director
(336) 409-7938 or luke.dooley@ymcasenc.org

Suzy Gandy, Aquatics & Facilities Director
susanna.gandy@ymcasenc.org

Find the Camp Kirkwood 2018 Summer Camping brochure at

https://www.ymcasenc.org/clientuploads/Kirkwood_PDF/CampKirkwoodBooklet_Final.pdf.

First Presbyterian Church provides scholarship assistance to children/youth attending Camp Kirkwood. Contact Jessica Skinner for scholarship information.



Friends of Camp Kirkwood